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MEDIA ADVISORY

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U.S. AMBASSADOR TO SWEAR IN NEW PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

United States Ambassador Anne Derse will swear in the fourth group of Peace Corps trainees in Azerbaijan at Samad Vurgun Palace in Sumgait at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 13, 2006. The program will also include remarks by representatives of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Economic Development, Peace Corps Country Director Zoltan Szigethy, training staff, and the new Volunteers themselves.

President John F. Kennedy founded the Peace Corps in 1961. Since then, more than 182,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps Volunteers in some 140 countries throughout the world. Volunteers help promote peace and friendship by giving of their time and talent during three months of training in the language, culture and technical needs of each country, followed by two years of service to that country.

Peace Corps Volunteers have been working in Azerbaijan since 2003 at the invitation of the Azerbaijani government. The 49 Volunteers currently working in Azerbaijan are English teachers in schools and community development economic advisers in cities and villages throughout Azerbaijan.

Members of the fourth group of Volunteers, including 21 English teachers and 21 community economic development advisers, have lived with host families around Sumgayit while intensively studying Azerbaijani language and culture. During their two years of service, the Peace Corps English Teaching Volunteers will help secondary school students and teachers increase their knowledge of English and involve them in activities to improve their access to resources. Community Economic Development Volunteers will help improve business practices by strengthening organizations that support community economic development. The Peace Corps looks forward to continuing its work with Azerbaijani citizens and the Azerbaijani government to secure a better, more prosperous future for all Azerbaijanis.

NOTE TO MEDIA: All media are invited to the event. For additional information please contact the US Embassy press service at 498 03 35/36/37.



PEACE CORPS AZERBAIJAN
